IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and 14. Please add Claims 15-17.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for making a plastic fuel tank comprising a main body having a laminated structure including a layer made of gasoline barrier material, an outer layer made of weldable plastic material and ~~a hole~~ an opening formed in said main body so as to communicate an interior and exterior of said tank main body with each other; and a component part fitted in said ~~hole~~ opening, said component part including a first part made of gasoline barrier material extending across said component part so as to substantially separate the interior and exterior of said tank main body from each other and a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part at which said component part is welded to a part of said outer layer of said tank main body surrounding said ~~hole~~ opening, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a component part having a peripheral part adapted to abut on said part surrounding said ~~hole~~ opening, said peripheral part defining an annular abutting surface defined by said first and second parts disposed concentrically one next to the other, said second part at said abutting surface projecting slightly beyond said first part at said abutting surface; and

thermally welding said abutting surface of said component part to said part surrounding said ~~hole~~ opening to such an extent that said first part at said abutting surface reaches at least to an immediate vicinity of said part surrounding said ~~hole~~ opening as a result of softening or melting of said second part at said abutting surface.

10. (Original) A method for making a plastic fuel tank comprising a main body having a laminated structure including a layer made of gasoline barrier material, an outer layer made of weldable plastic material and a hole formed in said main body so as to communicate an interior and exterior of said tank main body with each other; and a component part fitted in said hole, said component part including a first part made of gasoline barrier material extending across said component part so as to substantially separate the interior and exterior of said tank main body from each other and a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part at which said component part is welded to a part of said outer layer of said tank main body surrounding said hole, said method comprising the steps of:

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preparing a component part having a peripheral part adapted to abut on said part surrounding said hole, said peripheral part defining an annular abutting surface defined by said first and second parts disposed concentrically one next to the other, said second part at said abutting surface defining a concentric annular recess; and

thermally welding said abutting surface of said component part to said part surrounding said hole to such an extent that said first part at said abutting surface bends and lies over said part surrounding said hole without interfering with the welding of said abutting surface of said component part to said part surrounding said hole as a result of softening or melting of said second part at said abutting surface.

11. (Currently Amended) A component part adapted to be fitted in an ~~hole~~ opening provided in a plastic fuel tank main body, said fuel tank main body having a laminated structure including a layer made of gasoline barrier material and an outer layer made of weldable plastic material, and said ~~hole~~ opening communicating an interior and exterior of said tank main body with each other, said component part comprising:

a first part made of gasoline barrier material extending across said component part so as to substantially separate the interior and exterior of said tank main body from each other; and

a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part of which said component part is welded to a part of said outer layer of said tank main body surrounding said ~~hole~~ opening, said peripheral part defining an annular abutting surface defined by said first and second parts disposed concentrically one next to the other, said second part at said abutting surface projecting slightly beyond said first part at said abutting surface.

12. (Original) A component part according to claim 11, wherein said second part projecting beyond said first part at said abutting surface define a convex surface.

13. (Currently Amended) A component part according to claim 11, wherein said second part projecting beyond said first part at said abutting surface defines a slanted flat surface ~~which is withdrawn on a side adjacent to said first part~~.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second part projecting beyond said first part at said abutting surface define a convex surface.

16. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second part projecting beyond said first part at said abutting surface define a convex surface.

17. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein said second part projecting beyond said first part at said abutting surface define a slanted flat surface.

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